

FORM 124  
5-63

USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

TOP SECRET

ROUTING

1	DSA	9
2		10
3		11
4		12
5	DM	13
6	"	14
7		15
8		16

TO :

FROM :

ACTION:

INFO :

IN 83932

OSA 1-15

TO

INFO

CITE

TOP SECRET 300126Z CITE

25X1

25X1

SUBJECT: OXCART AND SR-71 OPERATIONS. THE FOLLOWING MEMORANDA ARE QUOTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

MEMORANDUM FOR: DIRECTOR NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE  
CHAIRMAN, JCS

SUBJECT: OXCART AND SR-71 OPERATIONS.

IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO EXTEND THE OXCART OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY THROUGH JUNE 30, 1968. THIS CAPABILITY IS TO BE BASED ON FIVE OPERATIONAL AIRCRAFT AND THE MINIMUM TEST SUPPORT NECESSARY TO INSURE SAFETY OF FLIGHT. THE CURRENT BUDGETARY ESTIMATE OF [ ] ADDITIONAL COST WILL BE USED AS THE BASIS FOR PLANNING THIS OPERATIONAL EXTENSION.

CONCURRENTLY, PLANNING FOR INTRODUCTION OF THE SR-71 INTO RECONNAISSANCE OPERATIONS IN NORTH VIETNAM SHOULD PROCEED

OSD REVIEW COMPLETED

NRO review(s) completed.

TOP SECRET

GROUP 1  
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC  
DOWNGRADING AND  
DECLASSIFICATION

REPRODUCTION BY OTHER THAN THE ISSUING OFFICE IS PROHIBITED. COPY NO. 5

25X1

IN 83932

T O P S E C R E T

PAGE 2

AS RAPIDLY AS ECM IMPLEMENTATION AND OTHER PROGRAM CONSIDERATIONS WILL PERMIT. IN THIS REGARD, IT IS REQUESTED THAT ALTERNATIVE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PHASING OXCART AND SR-71 OPERATIONS, TO INCLUDE SIMULTANEOUS OPERATIONS IN THE FAR EAST, BE PRESENTED TO ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

PLEASE TAKE THE ACTIONS NECESSARY TO REVISE THE PRESENT PLANS FOR PHASE OUT OF THE OXCART TO INSURE CONTINUED OPERATIONS AS DEFINED ABOVE.

SIGNED

PAUL H NITZE

---

(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, PROGRAM D

SUBJECT: SR-71/OXCART OPERATIONAL OPTIONS

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACTIONS DIRECTED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, DATED DECEMBER 29, 1967, YOU ARE DIRECTED TO INVESTIGATE THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS CONCERNING THE PHASING OF THE SR-71 INTO OPERATIONS IN THE FAR EAST WITH EVENTUAL ASSUMPTION OF THE BLACK SHIELD MISSION BY THE SR-71;

- A. UPDATE OF CURRENT PLAN FOR PHASE-IN OF THE SR-71, NO OVERLAP WITH THE A-12.
- B. JOINT OPERATION OF BOTH AIRCRAFT FROM KADENA, USING WHERE POSSIBLE, COMMON FACILITIES AND RESOURCES.
- C. SIMULTANEOUS OPERATION OF THE A-12 AND SR-71 FROM KADENA WITHOUT USE OF COMMON FACILITIES AND RESOURCES EXCEPT ON A NON-INTERFERENCE BASIS.

T O P S E C R E T

25X1

IN 83932

T O P S E C R E T

PAGE 3

D. OPERATION OF THE SR-71 FROM ANOTHER BASE IN THE FAR EAST WITH THE A-12 REMAINING AT KADENA FOR A PERIOD OF UP TO THREE MONTHS AFTER THE START OF SR-71 OPERATIONS.

PLEASE PROVIDE THE ABOVE INFORMATION NOT LATER THAN JANUARY 6, 1968.

ADDITIONALLY, PLEASE UNDERTAKE AN INITIAL STUDY OF THE IMPACT AND FEASIBILITY OF TRANSFERRING THE A-12 FLEET TO THE STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND ON OR ABOUT JUNE 30, 1968. THE LATTER IS NOT REQUIRED BY JANUARY 6, 1968 BUT SHOULD BE COMPLETED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SUBJECT TO THE PRIORITY OF THE SR-71 DEPLOYMENT STUDY. THIS STUDY DOES NOT REFLECT ANY DIRECTED ACTION BUT IS INTENDED TO EXPLORE AND ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTED AT THE LAST EXCOM MEETING.

SIGNED

ALEXANDER H FLAX

---

T O P S E C R E T TOR: 300208Z DEC 67

T O P S E C R E T